Violation of democracy in Panchayats

2284. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a national public hearing exposes the blatant violation of democracy in the Panchayats in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere; and

(b) what measures Government propose to take to streamline the functioning keeping in view the urgency in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Working of Panchayati Raj Institutions

†2285. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of PANCHYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is **a** fact that in order to make the Panchayati Raj Institutions more effecive, a conference of their representatives was held recently;

(b) if so, the major demands and suggestions put forth by the representatives during the discussion held therein;

(c) the reaction of Government to those demands and suggestions; and

(d) the financial and administrative rights which are proposed to be offered to streamline these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Following a series of seven Round Tables of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj or their representatives with the Union Minister between July and December, 2004 and two meetings of the Committee of Chief Secretaries and Secretaries incharge of Panchayati Raj with the Union Secretary, the first meeting of the Council of Ministers of Panchayati Raj was held at Kochi on the 5th and 6th August, 2005. The meeting focused on the measures taken by the States/UTs for Activity Mapping in order to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

ensure effective devolution of funds and functionaries commensurate with the devolution of functions. A Joint Statement of conclusions was adopted at the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the States would fix milestones in Activity Mapping and expedite the issue of necessary orders to operationalise the devolution of funds and functions for devolved activities to different tiers of the Panchayati Raj system. A copy of the Joint Resolution may be seen [Refer to the Statement-I appended to the answer to unstarred question 2280]

CNG link across the country

†2286. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States in the country provided with the facility of CNG link and supply and since when the same has been prdvided;

(b) the locations in the said States where this facility has been provided, the number and nature of the industries located there; and

(c) by when the facility of CNG link will be provided to Bhiwari Industrial Area in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Natural gas is being supplied in the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Tripura. The supplies of gas on commercial scale started mainly from early eighty's in Assam, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Subsequently, with the development of HBJ pipeline in 1987, gas became available to the consumers in the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. The supplies in KG Basin in Andhra Pradesh and Cauvery Basin in Tamil Nadu started in the ninety's. Of the total available gas, about 75% is being supplied to power and fertilizer sector consumers. The remaining gas caters to needs of consumers of sponge iron, glass/ceramics, petrochemicals, city gas distribution etc., in the above States.

With regard to CNG as auto fuel, at present CNG Stations have been set up by JV/PSUs in Delhi, Noida in UP, Mumbai in Maharashtra, Vadodra & Vaghodia in Gujarat and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. Some

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